

Haiti earthquake – UK response to the crisis

HEADLINES

More than a million people in Haiti have benefitted from British help following the earthquake

As recovery continues, we have targeted our aid to where it is making the most difference, with doctors and medical supplies helping those in need. Including:

- Funding 192 local doctors and over 700 support staff to provide treatment for cholera. The medical help meant none of the 23,000 patients treated died from the disease
- Support for more than 16,200 structural damage assessments in the town of Leogane and repairs that enabled 340 families to return home
- Helping to build back health centres and hospitals to safe standards
- Developing small-scale insurance schemes to help people protect their assets in case of future disasters.

During the immediate response, the UK government gave £20 million in emergency support which included a 64 person emergency search and rescue team and funding to directly help more than 380,000 people get access to food, clean water and medical care.

UK RESULTS SO FAR

CHOLERA

At the peak of the cholera epidemic in Haiti last year, the UK Government:

- Funded 192 doctors, 576 nurses and 200 support staff from the region to provide cholera treatment, whilst surveillance teams were established to improve alert and response capacity in the country. The medical teams were provided by the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) through a £2 million grant. There was not a single death reported amongst the more than 23,000 cholera patients treated.
- Tackled the chronic lack of decent water by supplying 340,000 people with clean water and in Northern Haiti through a £1.9 million grant to Oxfam.
- Provided public health services to 231,000 people across the North East of Haiti through a £1 million grant to Plan International, working in 18 communities.

REGIONAL CHOLERA RESPONSE

To ensure the region is fully prepared for any spread of the epidemic, the UK Government also provided £765,000 for PAHO's regional preventative planning and surveillance work. St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines, which were recovering from Hurricane Tomas, were also given £212,845 through PAHO to rehabilitate health, water and sanitation facilities.

EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

DFID provided more than 380,000 people with food, shelter, clean water and medical care, through a £20 million emergency grant following the earthquake. This included disease surveillance to monitor epidemics, a 64-person search and rescue team and an 11-strong medical team to carry out surgical operations.

This funding has been fully allocated and spent. A breakdown is provided below.

RECONSTRUCTION

The UK continues to support Haiti through its contribution to multilaterals like the UN, EU and World Bank, who are best placed to lead efforts on the ground. Our share of their commitments amounted to more than £100 million in 2010-11.

The UK will also provide £2m in Disaster Risk Reduction assistance to Haiti. Work supported includes ensuring that health facilities and hospitals are reconstructed to safe standards, developing insurance for micro-finance borrowers to protect their assets in case of future disasters and improving contingency planning by the United Nations. We also financed more than 16,200 structural damage assessments in the town of Leogane, and repairs that enabled 340 families to return home.

The UK had already cancelled all debts owed to it by Haiti. We also worked with the G7 to ensure all Haiti's remaining multilateral debts were eliminated.

DFID's EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE INCLUDED:

- £326,000 for UNOPS to provide transitional shelters and £1m for the Haitian Red Cross to provide food, shelter, clean water and other immediate needs for 20,000 families
- £2m for the World Food Programme for transport, communications and base camps to get relief where its needed
- £300,000 for the WHO for disease surveillance, to help prevent the spread of epidemics such as malaria and dengue fever
- £1m to help the UN to bring in more than 30 extra staff to help bolster humanitarian coordination
- £2.5m allocated to Oxfam (£1 million), Action Against Hunger (£1 million), and Handicap International (£500,000) to deliver clean water, shelter, medical care and food for 160,000 earthquake survivors
- £1.12m to IOM for shelter, camp co-ordination and camp management for an overall target population of 1.1 million
- £400,000 for an 11-strong British medical team working with Merlin, which has carried out over 350 life saving surgical operations - combining orthopaedic and plastic surgery to save survivors' limbs - and treated a further 4,250 people for potentially fatal diseases including acute diarrhoea, malaria and respiratory infections
- £2.5m to fly in urgent relief supplies for shelter, water and medical care. £287,378 to CARE for 4 technical shelter experts including a land tenure expert
- Secondments including a Senior Humanitarian Adviser to the Prime Minister and four experts from the Stabilisation Unit to support the Haitian Department of Prisons.

Figures as of 12 January 2012. For more information, please visit: <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/haiti-earthquake>